

SUBJECT: A Trip to Lvov in June-July 1963

SECRET

SOURCE: VERBYNETS, Halyna of 3300 Baily St., Bronx, N.Y.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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1. In June - July 1963 Source visited her parents and two sisters in LVOV where she stayed for approx. 4 weeks. Source was interviewed by Dr P on 28 Oct 1963 at her home. She is 38 years old, graduate of middle school, quite intelligent, with a lot of common sense. Source was willing to talk about general matters but reluctant to give names or other details because of fear for her relatives in the Ukraine.

It took Source 8 months to get a visa from the Soviet Embassy. She went by Air France via Warsaw. At Warsaw Airport Source only changed the plane and flew to Moscow. Customs and document control in Moscow were very perfunctory. Source stayed in the Soviet capital for one day doing some sightseeing. She hired a taxi for 4 hours which brought her to all most important, usual sightseeing spots in the city. She paid NR 7,- for taxi. Next day Source went by plane to KIEV and from there directly flew to LVIV. Source did not go the to countryside.

2. In LVIV Source lived with her parents - old pensioners. They were Ukrainian emigres in Poland after WW I who did not move to the West during or after WW II.

One of Source's sisters is Director of a Hospital in LVIV and earns NR 120.- per month. (Ordinary physician starts with a salary of R 60.- and ~~advances~~ elevates up to R 80.- to 100.-.)

One of Source's brothers-in-law is Docent of Lviv-Politechnics, specializes in electrics, and in two years hopes to be promoted to a Professor. His salary is R 350.- p.m. No one ~~among~~ Source's relatives belongs to the party and according to what she was told there is no pressure to join it.

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3. Source spent much time on discussing "politics" with her relatives and some of their friends. Her observations and impressions of what she was told are as follows:

a/ Influence of communist indoctrination. In spite of the negative attitude to the communist regime as it exists in practice, the communist as such doctrine permeates more and more people's minds. Thus the communism is being considered by continuously growing number of young people as a natural predetermined phenomenon that has to be taken for granted and reconciled with. There can be no reversal to capitalism and consequently what is needed is only a correction and reformation of the communism but not its removal. Particularly, in two fields the communism is to be corrected: removal of Russian predominance in relation to other nations of the USSR, liquidation of all kinds of national discrimination, and establishment of real equality of Soviet nations; in brief some sort of Ukrainian national communism; and secondly; removal of party arbitrariness and monopoly of power with parallel substantive increase of individual rights and freedom.

There is a deep awareness of Russian oppression. Russians are being regarded as a dominating nation. However, while there is a very strong resentment against Russians as a ruling stratum, there is no personal animosity in individual relations. Thus, Source met at her brother-in-law's house his Russian colleague with wife. All spoke Ukrainian but the Russian guest, whose wife sang beautifully Ukrainian songs. Discussions were quite open and not at least impeded by the presence of Russians. As the Source was told by her relatives this is not an ^{or} exceptional case.

b/ Russification and Resistance against it. Lectures at Politechnics in Lviv are read in Ukrainian. Only Russian lecturers read in Russian. Ukrainians make efforts to keep Ukrainian language "pure" and "cleanse" it of

Russicisms. This is contrary to official policy but Russians do the same with their language.

Students speak usually Ukrainian. Only Russians and those from outside of the Ukraine plus some Ukrainians from Eastern Ukraine use Russian.

In Source's opinion at least 50% of the Lviv-population speaks Ukrainian. She had this impression when walking in the main streets of the city. It is probably that farther off the center Ukrainian is being used even more. On the whole, in comparison with the pre-war situation Lvov looks like a Ukrainian city indeed.

c/ Western Broadcasts. People listen secretly to Western broadcasts and are in general informed about what is going on in the world. In particular, they listen to the BBC which seems to be least effectively jammed.

d/ Seksoty. People know and talk openly about informants of the KGB. There are local ones and a few who came from abroad. As one of those Source's relatives mentioned VERHUN, Thisio, former tailor who is employed now with the University Library. Source's husband knew him still from Austria. VERHUN visited now SOURCE'S relatives and said to have helped Source's husband in Austria. This was not, however, true. People avoid VERHUN and those alike, and are afraid of them.

e/ Dr. MAKAR, defector to the East. Source was told that Dr MAKAR was not as strong a scholar as he pretended to be. At the present no one respects him anymore, neither authorities, nor moreover population.

f/ Source's relatives and their friends did not show much deference to emigration. In one discussion Source's brother-in-law remarked that "emigration should ~~its own~~ mind its own business and we shall liberate ourselves also without their help".